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Mobley bans alcohol in A&M facilities

By Kim McGuire
The Battalion

System Chancellor defines policy concerning use, purchasing of alcohol by University employees

The Texas A&M University System has prohibited purchasing alcohol with any funds administered through the System, according to a statement released Wednesday by Chancellor William H. Mobley and Ross Margraves, chairman of the Board of Regents.

The statement comes four weeks after two Board of Regents secretaries were indicted on felony charges of falsifying vouchers to conceal alcohol purchases for the Board.

Vickie Running, Board of Regents secretary, and Sasha Walters, administrative aide to the Board, were indicted for allegedly altering

state vouchers to reflect the purchase of "food, soft drinks, cups and ice" when alcoholic beverages were actually purchased.

Margraves said the statement was issued to clear up any questions about the University's alcohol policy.

"We wanted to formulate a definitive policy," Margraves said. "We don't have a real definitive policy except for the students."

According to the statement, debts incurred before the memo may be paid from unre-

stricted gift funds.

The System also has prohibited serving or consuming alcoholic beverages in any building or on any campus of any university in the System.

Also, the policy restricts serving alcohol in any service unit facility, or any other public property or premises under control of the System except licensed faculty clubs.

Regent M. Guadalupe Range said she was proud of the action taken by Margraves.

"I feel it's up to all of the administration to do something to curtail the use of alcohol," she said.

Regent Billy Clayton said he approved of the University clarifying its stance although he thought the University hadn't broken any rules to begin with.

"The policies are long standing," Clayton said. "I don't think we did anything wrong. We didn't use state funds."

In a statement released March 17, Mobley

blamed a lack of administrative communication between departments and fiscal offices for the controversial alcohol purchases.

He said the A&M System began reviewing the practices and procedures relating to the purchase of alcohol after learning of the voucher situation.

"The review is not complete; however, it has become clear that in spite of the availability of allowable funds for the purchase of alcohol, over the years, a widespread institutional practice developed in which vouchers listing the purchase of alcohol would not be paid by the fiscal office," Mobley said.

"When purchasing alcohol, the institution

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Entering the job search



Mary Macmanus/The Battalion

Tim Nguyen, a senior mechanical engineering major from Garland, looks for a job on the career center bulletin board. The center is located on the second floor of the John J. Koldus Building.

Study Abroad budgeting leaves students waiting for trip refunds

By Jan Higginbotham
The Battalion

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages is working to clear up student allegations and budget problems which arose out of the department's Study Abroad program in France last summer.

Steve Oberhelman, head of the Modern and Classical Languages department, said he has been working with the director of last summer's trip, Dr. Claudine Hunting, an associate professor of modern languages, to deal with concerns raised by students.

The students have alleged that Hunting acted inappropriately during the trip and are concerned because they have not received a refund from the department.

"The students did raise concerns, and their concerns were taken seriously," Oberhelman said. "I'm trying to ensure that all their rights were protected. Their concerns will not be pushed aside."

Oberhelman said he summarized the students' concerns for Hunting, who is currently on development leave in France, and is waiting for her response before he takes any action.

The issue of alleged misconduct is secondary to grade appeals which were filed by the students, Oberhelman said. He is in the process of resolving those appeals.

"I am currently following correct procedure," he said. "It is my responsibility to ensure that they have received fair and proper grades."

One of the students involved with the trip last summer said she is concerned because the students have not yet received their refunds. The student did not want her name used because the issue has not yet been resolved.

"They told us we would get at least \$200 back before Thanksgiving," she said. "We've been home for seven months. It shouldn't have taken this long to finish the audit."

Oberhelman said the department has not yet issued refunds because the program's account did not balance and has not been closed out yet due to \$460 which has not been accounted for.

"We have looked at the director's records. She reported some money stolen and some of the discrepancy could be because of the exchange rate," Oberhelman said.

"I am concerned that there was the shortfall, but no one in the fiscal office can call it an act of misconduct," he said. "I am accepting the word of the director."

"In the interest of the students, I am covering the shortfall with department money," Oberhelman said. "I fully expect refund checks by the end of March."

The anonymous student said concern was also expressed by the group because they felt Hunting acted unprofessionally and treated the students unfairly. The students created a list of allegations for Oberhelman to make him aware of Hunting's actions.

"She was disrespectful to us in general," the student said. "Whenever we asked her questions concerning money, she'd tell us it was none of our business."

The student said concerns were also raised because Hunting accused several students of plagiarism and made other allegations which they considered outrageous.

Oberhelman said he is most concerned with the students. "I have a very student-oriented background," he said. "Students are the primary reason for this institution and my decisions as an administrator look to students."

Oberhelman said he has been pleased with the students' actions in dealing with the situation.

"I have been extremely impressed with the students' patience."

Oberhelman said each Study Abroad program is individual.

"Each trip takes on the character of the director," he said. Oberhelman said he has already chosen directors for this summer's program, which offers trips to Spain, Mexico, France, Germany and Russia.

"I looked at who would be the type of person I would want my child to take a trip with and who I would want if I were a student," Oberhelman said.

He said he chooses directors on their ability to recruit, if they prove to be good representatives of Texas A&M, if they are responsible leaders, if they will be willing to assist the students and if they show fiscal capability.

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Clinton's health care plan in jeopardy; Democrats offer compromise proposal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans thumbed their noses Wednesday at President Clinton's original health care reform plan as Democrats sought to close ranks behind a compromise plan to guarantee health insurance for every American.

A Ways and Means subcommittee was attempting to become the first panel in Congress to approve a health reform bill.

It was expected to vote Wednesday night on a bill stitched together by its chairman, Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif.

Republican opposition and Democratic misgivings about the 0.8 percent payroll tax in Stark's bill could hobble the compromise.

Stark said the Democrats might have a last-minute proposal to change the revenues and benefits.

Stark's plan would require all employers to pay for health insurance. It would create a new Medicare Part C program to cover the uninsured and extend prescription drug coverage to the elderly. It would also limit the growth of private and public health expenditures.

Stark would not force most Americans into mandatory insurance purchasing alliances.

His plan would let people keep the private health plans they now have.

The 11-member panel first was rejecting alternative health proposals offered by both Republicans and Democrats.

Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., engineered a vote on

the original 1,342-page Clinton Health Security Act by offering it as a substitute for Stark's plan.

Democrats accused the minority of playing games and trying to embarrass the White House. They said the controversial Clinton blueprint had evolved into Stark's plan.

"We have improved upon it," said Rep. Benjamin Cardin, D-Md.

"I just wanted to know if it's appropriate to offer a eulogy now," said Rep. Fred Grandy, R-Iowa.

"I did it for the American people," said Thomas.

"The president's plan was a beginning. . . The vote today is to certify the end of the beginning."

Thomas charged that Stark's plan was even worse

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Board of Regents to decide fate of A&M professors' tenure

By Kim McGuire
The Battalion

The fate of 73 professors will be decided Thursday, at the Board of Regents meeting, when the regents decide whether to grant them tenure.

The vote follows several heated discussions about tenure and a workshop earlier this month in which regents aired concerns about the matter.

The controversy came to a boil at the regents' December meeting when several regents voted against granting tenure to 12 candidates until Chairman Ross Margraves pleaded with them to change their votes until a forum could be held to discuss the issue.

Many of the regents objected to tenure policies and feared tenure prohibited unproductive professors from being dismissed.

"I will not vote for giving someone a permanent job," said Regent Billy Clayton, who has consistently voted against tenure because of "philosophical differences."

However, Dr. Manuel Davenport, chairman of the committee on academic freedom, resignation and tenure, said granting tenure is not guaranteeing a professor a permanent job.

"All tenure is a guarantee to a hearing if your job is in question," Davenport said. "It's nothing but a guarantee of due process. Professors without tenure can be fired at will, whereas tenured professors cannot."

He added the University would be damaged if tenure was ever abolished and would be put on a censured list by the American Association of University Professors.

"No quality professor would take a job here and, as a result, you'd see a mass departure of high quality professors and department heads to schools with tenure," he said.

A forum to discuss tenure was held March 11 in Austin and headed by Clayton, chairman of committee of academic campuses.

Clayton said the chancellor for the University of Florida spoke at the forum about some of the problems tenure presents and how the process might be improved.

Jim Morgan, Speaker of the Faculty Senate who attended the forum, said one of the problems of the tenure process is often that university officials aren't properly notified if a professor isn't performing adequately.

"Tenure provides mechanisms to get rid of someone who is not doing their work," Morgan said. "And it works as long as someone notifies the uni-

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Gunbattle in West Bank leaves five dead

The Associated Press

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank — As dawn broke Wednesday, the Muslim call to prayer competed with the staccato chatter of machine guns and explosions of rockets tearing apart a stone building suspected as a guerrilla hideout.

When the 22-hour siege ended at midafternoon, four Islamic militants and a woman bystander were dead, and Arabs opposed to the resumption of Middle East peace talks had a new rallying cry.

The gunbattle came less than a month after a Jewish settler shot 30 Palestinian worshippers to death in Hebron's ancient Tomb of the Patriarchs. Palestinian leaders accused the army of endangering civilians with

the siege.

Palestinians were especially incensed the roof of a pediatric hospital holding 32 children was used as a staging point by Israeli soldiers to pour fire at the holed-up guerrillas. That move also drew protests from the International Red Cross and other human rights groups.

Israeli military censors banned news media from reporting on the battle until after it ended, apparently hoping to hold down Palestinian protests in the occupied territories.

U.N. spokesman Sami Mshasha said 18 Palestinians were wounded in clashes with troops during protests in Hebron and others towns in the West Bank.

The army said the siege started around 4 p.m. Tuesday, when an Is-

raeli patrol was shot at from the building. An army spokesman, Capt. Ram Izrach, said the last shots heard from inside the building came at around 2 p.m. Wednesday.

"They were called on many times to surrender, but the answer was always gunfire," he told an Associated Press reporter at the scene.

Izrach said five soldiers suffered minor wounds, including the driver of an armored bulldozer who was wounded by glass fragments when guerrillas fired as he battered the three-story building.

Reporters estimated troops fired more than 100 anti-tank rockets along with thousands of bullets from machine guns and automatic rifles.

Night turned to day, setting roosters crowing, when up to 15 yellow

flares at a time glided down over Hebron repeatedly Tuesday night. Red tracer bullets streamed at the hideout, which was held in the glare of blinding spotlights that jumped from window to window looking for movement.

"After the thousands of shots they've fired in there, only ghosts and angels could be left," said Surayya Abu Sineini, 44, who watched the battle that turned a refurbished white stone building into a fire-blackened wreck.

Maj. Gen. Ehud Barak, the military chief of staff, said the four dead were among the most dangerous wanted members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas.

Announcing the battle during the

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